



Mrs. Wicks describes how important activity is for the young children today.



**THE VALLEY**

**STAR**

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 16

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

MARCH 1971

## Children Are Her Tomorrow

"There's no generation gap", says Mrs Claudine Wicks. Mrs Wicks has worked with young people for a great number of years and is outstanding in length between young and old today.

After visiting with Mrs Wicks at the Civitan Center on North Fitzhugh, Mrs Wicks had this to say to our reporter.

"There is a definite need for activity for the young people. It gives them a chance to exercise their energy." Mrs Wicks is quite proud of all her youngsters. One in particular, Bev McKinley, is specializing in music and is later going into vocabulary.

Mrs Wicks points out that learning starts in the home. At the Civitan Center A great number of parents come out and support their children as a way of showing that they care.

The Civitan Center has an adult group to follow the young children during their play. They feel that upon exposing the little children to the older children, they presume that the younger will be determined to grow up to do what the older ones have done. However, the groups should remain the same, as competition among them is great.

Mrs Wicks gives special attention to a child who is afraid of an audience. Each child is in the presence of at least 200 other children. The traveling groups are for that purpose kept down to 42.

One of the proud moments in Mrs Wick's life was the "Aumumn Leaves Pageant", where she was presented with a trophy for the outstanding citizen of Northeast Saginaw. This great event was a special one for her because it was presented to her by the youngsters that she has seen grow from her arms to young adults.

Mrs Wicks believes in doing everything with love, compassy, and understanding. Her greatest accomplishment in life is understanding children to the extent where they, too, will understand her and thereby go to her for advice or comfort.

Mrs Wicks will turn 65 this April. Her attitude towards age is to convince

the children that they are her tomorrow and, if they don't make it pretty for her now, she will be living in an ugly world tomorrow.

The day that Mrs Wicks first went into business here in Saginaw at the first Ward Community Center was 22 years ago. She has been with the city for 12 years now. "the kids are my entire life", says Mrs Wicks. They all confide in her completely and talk

to her as if she was their mother. Never has Mrs Wicks betrayed their confidence in her. They are with her from 3:00 to 5:30 and 5:30 to 6:00; on Monday till 9:30. The Weight Watchers Class is one of the main classes sponsored at the Civitan.

Sonny, a jazz musician, is Mrs Wick's only son, and Norma is her only adopted daughter.



Here, she talks about her past experiences in working with the young people at the Civitan.

## Austin Resigns From The Council

On Monday night, February 15, one of Saginaw's outstanding Black Council members, the Rev Roosevelt Austin, announced his resignation from the City Council.

The Rev Mr Austin is noted for his outstanding work and contribution to the City Council of Saginaw and who has served faithfully and dedicated to battering the life to the City of Saginaw as a whole.

The Valley Star takes a great deal of sadness in the loss of an outstanding councilman, but, we know that Rev Austin will continue to strive for social justice and political justice in our community as well as in our City at large.

The Rev Mr Austin has worked in many capacities in Saginaw as a faithful and devoted minister and member of many organizations.

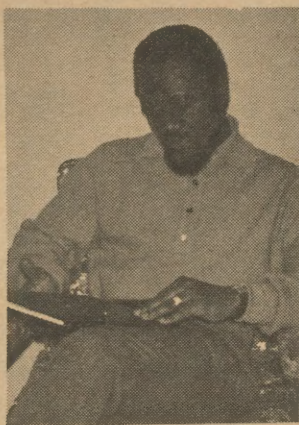
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## From The Editor



JIM COLVIN

## Lunch Can Be Fun!

It's funny how old friends can meet as the old saying goes around the table, but at the Diplomat it's different where the food is served soul style.

You not only get to meet old friends but new as well. Today, along with my beautiful secretary, we had lunch at the Diplomat and as we sat and enjoyed the red beans, rice, roast beef and potato pie, which was very delicious, we observed Saginaw's par as well as professional people. Some of the exciting people you can meet during lunch hour might be Rev. Weathersby, Mrs. Daisy Williams, Robert Viers, Franklin Gary, Joe Hayes, Calvin Beatty, and Art Smith.

The friendly conversations that take place across the tables at the Diplomat never present a dull moment.

## Symphony

by Charlene Bacon

Do not go to the symphony unless you are prepared to give your entire mind to it; the playing of classical music and the singing of the great areas demand the listener's total attention and concentration.

Sunday evening, March 14,

the Saginaw Symphony Association presented as its guest soloist, the gifted soprano, Miss Ella Lee, and she was heartily welcomed by an audience of community leaders, ordinary working people, members of high school bands and choirs,

See NOTES, Page 9

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# Miss Zion Pageant Is Held At Local Church

On Saturday night, February 27 the Young Adult Choir of Zion Baptist Church held its Miss Zion Pageant at the Diplomat Auditorium. This is to be an annual event, for the purpose of fund raising, as well as to give credit and recognition to young people who have developed their talents and contributed of themselves to their church.

Besides Miss Zion, other titles were bestowed for specific talents. Crowned Miss Zion was Miss Angenetta Birden, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Birden. Other titles were Best Philosopher, Miss Carolyn Hill, daughter of Mr and Mrs Willie Hill; best model, Miss Elaine Kinchon, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leroy Kinchon.

The pageant program was opened with the singing of the Black National Anthem, 'Lift Every Voice and Sing.' Also featured were an African dance, created by Mrs Claudine Wickes and a 'Breakdown Dance' directed by Eddie Parker and Dempsey Allen.

The Young Adult Choir is a 45-voice choir under the able direction of Miss Carolyn Hill. Its officers are: President, Jimmie Stephens, vice president, Calvin Adams; secretary, Joyce Brooks; treasurer, Elaine Kinchon; chaplain Henry Stephens. Also responsible for the supervision of the group are its adult sponsors, Mrs Essie Watts, Mrs Veola Washington, Mr William Byrd and Mr John Weaver.

The Choir has a number of other fund raising events planned one of which is a musical, to be held at Zion Baptist Church the second Sunday in May, with several performing groups coming from across the state. The proceeds from the choir's fund raising activities will be used to finance their summer project, a June trip to Washington, D. C.



Queen & Court: Angenetta Birden, Carolyn Hill, and Elaine Kinchon.



Toddler at Zion—The Valley cameraman caught the bright eyes of this little toddler at Zion Baptist Church, which seems more interested in his mother than the ceremony.



THE VALLEY STAR

P. O. BOX 651

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48605

TELEPHONE: 517-752-0416

The Valley Star Is Published Every Friday By  
Alonza Colvin and Sons,

P.O. Box 651, Saginaw, Michigan 48605.

Subscription Rates By Mail As Follows:

\$5.00 Per Year

Alonza Colvin . . . . . Editor-Publisher

## ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Weekly Calendar

MONDAY: 6-7:30 p.m. Missionary — 6-7:30 p.m. Red Circle Sunshine — Band (1st & 4th).

WEDNESDAY: 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting — 7 p.m. Bible Study. THURSDAY: 6 p.m. Nurses Guild (2nd) — 6 p.m. Young Adult Choir Rehearsal (every Thurs.).

SATURDAY: 4 p.m. Senior Usher Board — 6 p.m. Gospel & Male Chorus Rehearsal (1st And 3rd).

SUNDAY: 7 p.m. BYF (2nd & 4th) — 4-5 p.m. (2nd & 4th) Young Matrons.



# Multi-Purpose Contract Accepted By Council

by Mike Pierrie

The City Council opened as usual with the audience being quite large.

Speaking from the audience, on behalf of some 40 or so City employees, was Mr James F. Clark a Civil Engineer in the Department of Public Works and Engineering. He was asking that the Engineering unit have its own bargaining unit so that they would bring forth specific demand from other City employees.

From petitions came petition #A-12529 from assistant City Manager Charles W. Coats submitting his resignation as a member of the City of Saginaw Building Authority to accept a new position as City Administrator in Muscatine, Iowa. This was accepted by Council.

Petition #A-12530 coming from Bradley P. Folerke and Ernest L. Hare for a transfer of the SDD & SDM license at 1052 E. Genesee from Michael A. Davis themselves at the same address. This was referred to the City Manager.

Petition #A-12531 from Consumers Power Co. asking for renewal of its lease with the City from South of East Holland between Washington and Water. This was approved by Council.

Petition #A-12532 from Elmer and Mildred Hetzner and William R. and Eva L. Wolfgram for rezoning the northerly side of the 2700 Block of Davenport (Section R-2 to R-3A) which is vacant land. This was referred to the City Manager.

#A-12533 from the Greater Saginaw Safety Council for support of its activities in the amount of \$5,000, \$4,000 was contri-

buted last year. This was referred to the City Manager as was #A-12535 from the 40 or so Engineering and Technical Employees (Which was presented in the audience of the meeting)

Petition #A-12534 from the Secretary-Treasurer of Saginaw-Midland Municipal Water Supply Corporation transmitting copies of their budget for the 1971-72 fiscal year was received and filed.

From the City Manager a report on a request from the Chief Dog Warden for Saginaw County to change

procedure on handling complaints on loose dogs was received and filed. The Council was advised that suit had commenced against city defendants, filed by Howard Smith and Saginaw Model City Involvement Corp. against the Mayor and the City. They were advised to send the Ckty attorney to take action in defense of the City and City officers.

A report on petition A-12528 from Saginaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission requesting the City Council to adopt a resolution opposing

the construction of a Zilwaukee high-level bridge and recommending construction of a new south belt free-way to relieve I-75 was received and filed by the Council.

A report on Petition A-12519 from D. C. Johnson Co. offering to sell two parcels of land in Buena Vista Township to the City was received and filed by the Council.

A recommendation that a public hearing be held on April 5, 1971 on offers received to purchase and develop 11 single family lots in the Salina Urban Renewal Project was approved by Council.

Approval was given on two proposed topics (Traffic Operations Program to Increase Capacity and Safety) projects which would widen two sections of Bay Road from West Genesee to Shattuck to 50' and widen Bay Road to 60' from Deindorfer Street to Shattuck Street.

It was approved by Council that the Building Code be amended by adding a new section (Section 307) to Chapter 3 to establish fees

to cover cost of inspection of existing buildings.

After lengthy discussion and much argument between Councilmen, Mr Chapis and Mr Louis Oates about an estimated budget, approval was given giving a contract to the Multi-Purpose Service Center Board, Inc. Mr Oate's appointment to the Multi-Purpose Board was announced at the meeting also.

A resolution opposing the construction of a Zilwaukee high-level bridge and recommending construction of a new south belt freeway instead was presented and adopted by Council.

The Council Meeting had one sad moment nearing its end, Monday, March 15, 1971. Rev Roosevelt Austin, the only Black member sent in a letter that was read to Council by the Mayor stating his resignation for reasons that were unknown.

The Rev Austin could not be reached at that time for comment, but this was truly a great loss from the Council and the Community.



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## Baby A Hit At Shower

On Saturday evening, March 12, the Young Adult Choir of Zion Baptist Church sponsored a baby shower for Mr and Mrs Carl Maple, in honor of the birth of their son, Quentin.

The shower was held in the church fellowship hall, which was decorated with blue and flowered crepe streamers. The center table held a white cake with blue booties made of frosting, surrounded by cards, toys, flowers, and a baby book.

The highlight of the evening, of course, was the arrival of Mrs Maple and the new baby; Mr Maple, too, was on hand for the festivities. There were games, gifts, and good things to eat in abundance, a fitting welcome for a precious new arrival.



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# Girl Scout Meet Held At Zion Church

Sunday March 14, 1971 was Girl Scout Sunday, a very special Sunday at Zion Baptist Church. Honored guests at the morning worship service were the three Scout troops which are sponsored by Zion Baptist Church. They are Brownie Troop 22 and their leader; Mrs. Leola Brown; Junior Troop 115 and their leader, Miss Judy Jackson; and

Cadette Troop 722 and their leader Mrs. Witherspoon. Mrs. Witherspoon and Miss Jackson are both teachers in Saginaw Public, Miss Jackson at Houghton and Mrs. Witherspoon at Edith Baillie. Mrs. Brown is a homemaker and full time student at Delta College. She also serves as Neighborhood Chairman for Potter Neighborhood of

District R, Mitten Bay Girl Scout Council.

The three troops together presented a very moving flag ceremony, that included the Pledge of Allegiance, the singing of 'My Country 'Tis of Thee' and also 'Girl Scouts Together.'

Also given special recognition were the parents of the members of the three troops and two representatives of the Mitten Bay Girl Scout Council, who were present especially for the occasion.

All of the three Scout Troops are growing rapidly, and are not limited to those who attend Zion Church regularly. The Brownie Troop now numbers ten and meets on Saturdays from 12:30 until 2:30; there are 32 Juniors and 12 Cadettes and those groups meet Saturday mornings, 10 till 11:30.

The group leaders welcome visitors, especially those who are interested in becoming active in the Girl Scout movement, because with more leaders and more assistant leaders, more girls can become involved in Girl Scouts and take advantage of the enjoyment and learning that Scouting provides.



The Brownies watch Flag Ceremony at Zion Baptist Church.



Flag ceremony.



Mrs. Brown

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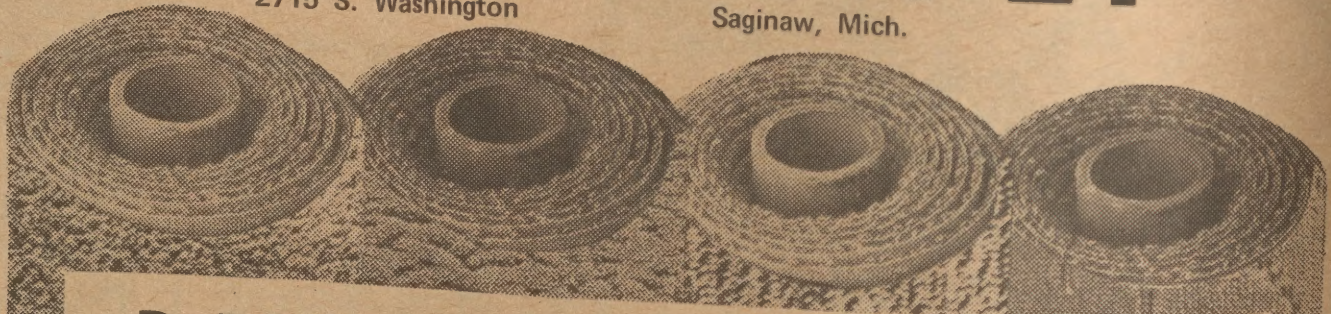
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### Carpet Tile Sales Hike Predicted

Consumers will buy \$75 million worth of carpet tiles this year, and increase the total to \$400 million worth by 1975, according to industry executives. Carpet tiles

are squares of carpet with a high density foam rubber backing. They are installed like ordinary carpet, but look like broadloom when the job is completed.







## Soul

by ELIZABETH DUGAN

What is Soul?

Soul is Albert Jones saying, I Do Love You.

Soul is your main man saying, he'll be true

Soul is Nina Simone saying, Your gifted and black

Soul is when all the Brothers fight back.

Soul could really be a thing that's uptight.  
If all the world's Brothers, Black and White would unite.  
Because united we stand, divided we fall,  
So let all our Brothers have a chance to stand tall.

"St. Joseph's team to watch in Class D." said News article Thursday, March 11, 1971. Since then, we have come a long way. After winning District title we gained our chance in the Regionals. Friday, March 12, 1971 St. Joe's played a tremendous game against Arenac Eastern with a score of 58-48. Moving on, Saturday, March 13, St. Joe's played Fowler. Fowler had a 19-1 record until the Buccaneer's came along and upset them with a score of 62-53. The Super-Bad Bucc's walked away with the trophy. Thursday, March 18, 1971 the Buccaneers will play in quarter-finals against North Huron who now have a 19-3 record. The winner will play in the semk-final against the winner at the Covert-Waterford Our Lady contest. The game Saturday will be played at Jackson Parkside High School at 7 p.m. Be there! Support

our great team and let them know we are with them all the way.

We're not the only ones who are proud of our guys. Lately we have been receiving telegrams and let-

ters from former tournament players, their cheerleaders, and fans.

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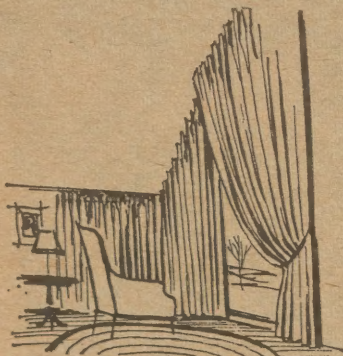
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# Soul Survivors Have A Party



On March 13, the Soul Survivors came to a surprise birthday party for Charlie Tuna, president of the Soul Survivors. The members of the Soul Survivors office consisted of Little Red Rooster, Big James and Art Cat, Sergeant of Arms. They invited some of their friends and associates from Flint and there along with members of their club were Big Buck, vice president; Bad News; Chuck, Mr Tough; the Jap; Black Gold; Big Mac and the Cat Man.

Also present were members of the Burkaroos and also the lover, Big Percy, Girl Mac and many, many others. These fellows were really together. The party was groovy; the beverages and the food was served free by the Soul Survivors. The Flint Eagles spoke of the many trophies that they had won for contributing to the City of Flint.

The Soul Survivors invite you to attend their Circle party that will be held at the end of May. For those of you that are new and that includes myself, the Circle consists of outstanding clubs who have obtained a certain status before they are committed to the Circle. At the meeting, those who have not been admitted to the Circle will sit in the auto ring hoping that one day their services and activities will be admitted to the Circle. It means they will have obtained a very high and very standing statute in their community so that they might be accepted in the Circle.



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# Ali's Moment Of Truth

If it wasn't the 'fight of the century,' it was definitely the most entertaining spectacle in quite awhile.

Joe Frazier won undisputed recognition as heavy-weight champion of the world by taking a unanimous decision from Muhammad Ali, Monday night in Madison Square Garden, in a fight that exhibited the courage, skill and showmanship of both fighters.

Sellout crowds at three locations in Detroit saw the fight on closed circuit and witnessed 15 rounds of excitement and high drama. And both fighters exhibited more than a little gamemanship.

During the referee's instructions before the fight, both men were doing more talking than listening to referee Arthur Mercante. Then Ali turned his back and walked away from Frazier before the instruc-

tions were over.

Ali then tried to mock his smaller opponent by telling the crowd the effect of Frazier's punches. In the first round, Joe caught Ali against the ropes and landed lefts. After every one, Ali shook his head in a negative manner as if to say: "these are weak punches." Ali did this again a number of times.

He also taunted Joe by holding him at bay with an outstretched arm and using Joe's head as a speed bag in the corners. After the bell in the third round, Ali threw up his hands as if to claim victory.

But all the taunting was not done by Ali. In the fifth round, Ali took to his toes and began dancing around the ring and landed a few punches. Then Frazier stood in the middle of the ring, dropped his guard and ducked or slipped every jab or punch that Ali threw for some 29 seconds. Then Joe motioned 'do it again.' The crowd was in an uproar.

But no matter how they tried, neither man could humiliate the other, because they both fought great fights. The first five rounds were dominated by the great speed of Ali's punches. Frazier never reacted to the hard lefts he was taking and bobbed and weaved his way close to score his hard body blows.

In the sixth round, the round that Ali had predicted he would put Joe away in, he seemed to tire and from then on it was easier for Frazier to capture Ali along the ropes.

The fight was fairly even for the next five rounds as both fighters landed with good punches and showed their gamemanship to the

crowd. A number of times, Ali was backed to a corner and did not try to escape for long periods, but he blocked most of Joe's hard body blows during these periods. At these times Frazier would feign at the body and try to sneak shots at Ali's head.

In the 11th round, Ali slipped to the canvas early, but the round appeared even until about 2:30 of the round had elapsed, when Frazier delivered a left hook that staggered Ali. He escaped from that barrage and recovered in the 12th. But from that point on, Ali appeared the more weary of the two men as Frazier began scoring consistently.

In the 15th and final round Frazier delivered a great left hook that dropped Ali for the mandatory eight count. Ali spent the rest of the fight struggling to stay off the canvas.

At the end, both fighters were bone weary. Frazier had a cut on the inside of his mouth and had some swelling of the right eye. Ali had a badly swollen jaw as a result of Frazier's knockdown punch.

The scoring of the fight was 8-6-1, 9-6 and 11-4 for Frazier. Ali called Frazier a great champion, although he felt that he had won the fight. Joe also complimented his opponent.

No one who viewed the fight could fail to be impressed by the skill, strength and courage of both men.

Michigan, a leader in health programs, is one of the few states to have a cancer research center - the new G. D. Cummings Cancer Products Development Center located at Lansing.



MUHAMMAD ALI



## Spring Fever

Spring must be near with the robins as well as the flowers beginning to show the new signs of life.

The Star camera on Sunday, March 14 observed the new signs of Spring. That was Mr Albert Jones of 326 South 14th, who said he could not resist the temptation of the Saginaw River and the beautiful aroma of Spring in the air. He felt that a few casts into the River would just add to the already burning fever of Spring.

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# Notes

Continued from Page 2

parents and their small children. It is not a high-brow event, restricted to the privileged few; it is for everyone who likes it.

And liking it is another matter. Now everyone is a music lover; some people find that violin music or operatic singing, for instance, are not the things they enjoy most.

But if music gets to you at all, if you enjoy different kinds of rhythm and harmony, if you're the kind of person who would rather wake up to music than an alarm clock, then the Symphony might be for you. Even if you have never gone to hear the Symphony on Sunday nights, even once, you can learn to love it in just one evening.

The grandness of even just a part of the orchestra, playing a concerto, the excitement of the echoing trumpets and French horns, the incredible sweetness of the flute and oboe together, the powerful, clear voice of a soloist like Ella Lee, the applause and shouting enthusiasm of other music-lovers; all of these work their way into your mind and your emotions. And even before the music reaches its thundering, crashing finish, you'll find yourself on your feet, applauding and shouting, "Bravo!" along with everyone else.

Chances are you've missed many, if not most, of the Saginaw Symphony's performances. But here's a promise: if you attend just one performance, you won't miss many more.

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## Citizen's Participation

The next step on our ladder is a level that citizens begin to have some degree of influence though tokenism is still apparent. An example of placation strategy is to place a few hand-picked "worthy" poor on boards of Community Action Agencies or on public bodies like the board of education, police commission or housing authority. If they are not accountable to a constituency in the community and if the traditional power elite hold the majority of seats, the have-nots can be easily outvoted and outfoxed. An example is the Model Cities advisory and planning committees. They allow citizens to advise or plan ad infinitum but retain for power-holders the right to judge the legitimacy or feasibility of the advice. The degree to which citizens are actually placated, of course, depends largely on two factors: the quality of technical assistance they have in articulating their priorities; and the extent to which the community has been organized to press for those priorities.

It is not surprising that the level of citizen participation in the vast majority of Model Cities programs is at the placation rung of the ladder or below. Policy-makers at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) were determined to return the genie of citizen power to the battle from which it had escaped, in a few cities, as a result of the provision stipulating "maximum feasible participation" in poverty programs. Therefore, HUD channeled its physical-social-economic rejuvenation approach for blighted neighborhoods through city hall. It drafted legislation requiring that all Model Cities' money flow to a local City Demonstration Agency (CDA) through the elected city council. As enacted by Congress, this gave local city councils final veto power over planning and programming and ruled out any direct funding relationship between community groups and HUD.

HUD required the CDA's to create coalition, policy-making boards that would include necessary local power-holders to create a comprehensive physical-social-economic plan during the first year. The plan was to be carried out in a subsequent five year action phase. HUD, unlike OEO, did not require that have-not citizens be included on the CDA decision-making boards. HUD's Performance Standards for Citizen Participation only demanded that "citizens have clear and direct access to the decision-making process."

Accordingly, the CDA's structured their policy-making board to include some combination of elected officials; school representatives; housing, health and welfare officials; employment and police department representatives; and various civic, labor, and business leaders. Some CDA's included citizens from the neighborhood. Many mayors correctly interpreted the HUD provision for "access to the decision-making process" as the escape hatch they sought to relegate citizens to the traditional advisory role.

Most CDA's created residents' advisory committees. An alarmingly significant number created citizens' policy boards and citizen's policy committees which are totally misnamed as they have either no policy-making function or only a very limited authority. Almost every

CDA created about a dozen planning committees or task forces on functional lines: health, welfare, education, housing, and unemployment. In most cases, have-not citizens were invited to serve on these committees along with technicians from relevant public agencies. Some CDA's, on the other hand, structured planning committees of technicians and parallel committees of citizens.

Variations on the theme are almost infinite because HUD encouraged the CDA's to experiment with administrative and policy mechanisms. The structural role for have-not citizens may show similar and related variation, but in most cases their power in the Model Cities planning process remains strictly advisory of deliberately ill-defined.

In most Model Cities programs, endless time has been spent fashioning complicated board, committee, and task force structures for the planning year. But the rights and responsibilities of the various elements of those structures are not defined and are ambiguous. Such ambiguity is likely to cause considerable conflict at the end of the one-year planning process. For at this point, citizens may realize that they have once again extensively "participated" but have not profited beyond the extent the powerholders decided to placate them.

Results of a staff study (conducted in the Summer of 1968 before the second round of seventy-five planning grants were awarded) were released in a December, 1968 HUD bulletin. Though this public document uses much more delicate and diplomatic language, it attests to the already cited criticisms of non-policy-making boards and ambiguous complicated structures, in addition to the following findings:

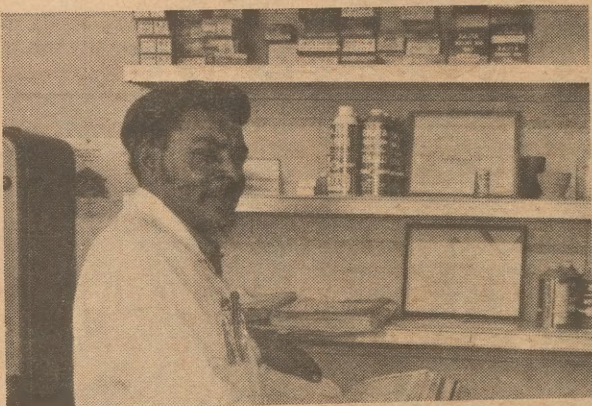
1. Most CDA's did not negotiate citizen participation requirements with residents.
2. Citizens, drawing on past negative experiences with local powerholders, were extremely suspicious of this new panacea program. They were legitimately distrustful of city hall's motives.
3. Most CDA's were not working with citizens' groups that were genuinely representative of model neighborhoods and accountable to neighborhood constituencies. As in many of the poverty programs, those who were involved were more representative of the upwardly mobile working class. Thus their acquiescence to plans prepared by city agencies was not likely to reflect the views of the unemployed, the young, the more militant residents, and the hard-core poor.
4. Residents who were participating in as many as three to five meetings per week were unaware of their minimum rights, responsibilities, and the options available to them under the program. For example, they did not realize that they were not required to accept technical help from city technicians they distrusted.
5. Most of the technical assistance provided by CDA's and city agencies was of third-rate quality, paternalistic, and condescending. Agency technicians did not suggest innovative options. They reacted bureaucratically when the residents pressed for innovative approaches. The vested interests of the old-line agencies were a major-although hidden-agenda.
6. Most CDA's were not engaged in planning that was comprehensive enough to expose and deal with the roots or urban decay. They engaged in "meetingitis" and were supporting strategies that resulted in "projectitis," the outcome of which was a "laundry list" of traditional programs to be conducted by traditional agencies in the traditional manner under which slums emerged in the first place.
7. Residents were not getting enough information from CDA's to enable them to review CDA developed plans or to initiate plans of their own as required by HUD. At best, they were getting superficial information. At worst, they were not even getting copies of official HUD materials.
8. Most residents were unaware of their rights to be reimbursed for expenses incurred because of participation - babysitting, transportation costs, and so on.
9. The training of residents, which would enable them to understand the labyrinth of the federal-state-city systems and networks of subsystems, was an item that most CDA did not consider.

These findings led to a new public interpretation of HUD's approach to citizen participation. Though the requirements for the seventy-five "second-round" Model City grantees were not changed, HUD's twenty-seven page technical bulletin on citizen participation repeatedly advocated that cities share power with residents. It also urged CDA's to experiment with sub-contracts under which the residents' groups could hire their own trusted technicians.

A more recent evaluation was circulated in February, 1969, by OSTI, a private firm that entered into a contract with OEO to provide technical assistance and training to citizens involved in Model Cities programs in the northeast region of the country. OSTI's report to OEO corroborates the earlier study. In addition it stated:

"In practically no Model Cities structure does citizen participation mean truly shared decision-making, such that citizens might view themselves as 'the partners in this program...' In general, citizens are finding it impossible to have a significant impact on the comprehensive planning which is going on. In most cases, the staff planners of the CDA and the planners of exist-

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## Rubber Stamp Committee Betrayed

The eight-rung ladder has at its lowest points the two categories of Therapy and Manipulation. These categories permit citizens to participate and at the same time they are not actually involved in any decision-making activity.

In the name of citizen participation, people are placed on rubber-stamp advisory boards for the express purpose of 'educating' them or engineering their support. Instead of genuine citizen participation, the bottom rung of the Ladder, manipulation, signifies the distortion of participation into a public relations vehicle by powerholders.

This illusory form of "Participation" initially came into vogue with urban renewal when the socially elite were invited by city housing officials to serve on Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC's). Another target of manipulation were the CAC subcommittees on minority groups, which in theory were to protect the rights of Negroes in the urban renewal program. In practice, these subcommittees like their parent CAC's, functioned mostly as letterheads, trotted forward at appropriate times to promote urban renewal

planned, in recent years known as NEGRO REMOVAL PLANS.

At meetings of the Citizen Advisory Committees it was the officials who educated, persuaded and advised the citizens, not the reverse. Federal guidelines for the removal programs legitimized the manipulative agenda by emphasizing the terms "information - gathering," "public relations" and "support" as the explicit functions of the committees.

This style of non-participation has since been applied to other programs encompassing the poor. Examples of this are seen in Community Action Agencies (CAA's) which have created structures called 'neighborhood councils' or 'neighborhood advisory groups.' These bodies frequently have no legitimate function or power. The CAA's use them to prove that grassroots people are involved in the program. Or it may have been described at a meeting in the most general terms: "We need your signatures on this proposal for a multi-service center which will house, under one roof, doctors from the health department,

workers from the welfare department may not have been discussed with the 'people.'

The signators are not informed that the \$2 million per year center will only refer residents to the same old waiting lines at the same old agencies across town. No one is asked if such a referral center is really needed in the neighborhood. No one realizes that the contractor for the building may be the mayor's brother-in-law, or that the new director of the center will be the same old community organization specialist from the urban renewal agency.

After signing their names, the proud grassroots dutifully spread the word that they have 'participated' in bringing a new and wonderful center to the neighborhood to provide people with drastically needed jobs and health and welfare services. Only after the ribbon-cutting ceremony do the members of the neighborhood council realize that they didn't ask the important questions and that they had no technical advisors of their own to help them grasp the fine legal print. The new center, which is open 9 to 5

daily and on weekdays only, actually adds to their problems. Now the old agencies across town won't talk with them unless they have a pink paper slip to prove that they have been referred by 'their' shiny, new neighborhood center.

Unfortunately, this chicanery is not a unique example. Instead it is almost typical of what has been perpetrated in the name of high-sounding rhetoric like 'grass roots participation.' This shame lies at the heart of the deep-seated exasperation and hostility of the have nots toward the powerholders.

One hopeful note is that, having been so grossly affronted, some citizens have learned the Mickey Mouse game and now they too know how to play. As a result of this knowledge, they are demanding genuine levels of participation to assure them that public programs are relevant to their needs and responsive to their priorities.

In some respects group therapy, masked as citizen participation should be the lowest rung of the ladder because it is both dishonest and arrogant. Its administrators - mental health experts from social workers to psychiatrists - as-

sume that powerlessness is synonymous with mental illness. On this assumption, under a masquerade of involving citizens in planning, the experts subject the citizens to clinical group therapy. What makes this form of 'participation' so incidious is that citizens are engaged in extensive activity, but the focus of it is on curing them of their 'pathology' rather than changing the racism and victimization that create their 'pathologies.'

Consider an incident that occurred in New York less than two years ago. When a father took his seriously ill baby to the emergency clinic of a local hospital, a young resident physician on duty instructed him to take the baby home and feed it sugar water. The baby died that afternoon of pneumonia and dehydration. The overwrought father complained to the board of local community action agency. Instead of launching an investigation of the hospital to determine what changes would prevent similar deaths or other forms of malpractice, the board invited the father to attend the CAA's child-care sessions for parents

See NEGRO, 11